



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING CITY OF BAY CITY

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 1901 5th Street

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor: Robert K. Nelson

Mayor Pro Tem: Becca Sitz

Council Members: Benjamin Flores, Jim Folse, Bradley Westmoreland, Blayne Finlay

Vision Statement

We envision Bay City as a thriving, family-centered community where our citizens can live, work, worship, and play, while welcoming visitors to experience our beautiful environment and diverse culture.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert K. Nelson at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor Robert K. Nelson

Mayor Pro Tem Becca Sitz

Council Member Benjamin Flores

Council Member Jim Folse

Council Member Bradley Westmoreland

Council Member Blayne Finlay

INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Texas State Flag Pledge: "Honor The Texas Flag; I Pledge Allegiance To Thee, Texas, One State Under God, One And Indivisible."

Councilman Benjamin Flores

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Bay City promotes economic growth and invests in quality-of-life initiatives through collaboration. We respond promptly and professionally to residents' concerns and strive to deliver superior municipal services.

Councilman Benjamin Flores

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Council Member Flores to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Folse.

Voting Yea: Council Member Flores, Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Folse, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jessica Shephard (resident of 3769 FM 2668, Bay City, Texas) voiced her concerns, as a reporter, regarding the closed-door meetings. She also asked if the City is going to post the election information in Spanish as well as English. Jerry Evans (resident of 980 FM 1728, Van Vleck, Texas) stated the consensus is that we don't gain anything by deleting out of the home-rule charter. He pointed out that ordinance 1468 is still not in the charter. Jessica Duhon (resident of Nichols Square in Bay City, Texas) spoke briefly about last night's workshop (February 10th) about the parts of the charter that conflicted with the law.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Scotty Jones, announced upcoming City events. She mentioned Parks and Recreation is looking for a few more judges for the Riverside Smoke-Off event. If interested, please contact Kelly at Parks and Recreation. She stated Municipal Court is kicking off their warrant round-up beginning February 14th through March 14th. Ms. Jones announced the City employees who were recognized as Leaders under 40. Those employees are Jose Soto from the Bay City Police Department, Adaleigh Elsworth from the Library, Jennifer Leverett from Finance, and Ashley Talasek from Bay City CDC. Public Works is starting their fire hydrant maintenance program.

ITEMS / COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Jim Folse wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and hopes everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend. Council Member Blayne Finlay congratulated all the Leaders under 40 and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day. Mayor Pro Tem Becca Sitz hopes to have the Efficiency Committee on the next agenda. She would like to know where the City is on the Ordinance regarding apartments with regard to the fencing and gated community. Council Member Blayne Finlay appreciated all the communication on social media about transparency on the restriping on Highway 60 and 6th Street. He also mentioned the repair work being done on Nichols Avenue being an ongoing TXDOT project and not a Bay City project. Council Member Benjamin Flores wants to start preparing communication for residents that will be affected during the Hamman Road bridge repair. He also wants to look at the open positions we have been unable to fill in the Police Department and reallocating funds towards current pay adjustments. City Manager, Scotty Jones, stated the City is working on a compensation study now. Mayor Robert K. Nelson announced Wharton County Junior College is having their construction trades training ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow, February 12th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at their campus located at 4000 Avenue F.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL

Motion made by Council Member Westmoreland to approve all consent agenda items. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sitz. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Flores, Council Member Folse, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay. Motion carried.

1. Minutes of Council Workshop of January 28, 2025
2. Appointment of Becca Sitz as TIRZ #1 and TIRZ #2 Board Chair.

3. Appointment of Jim Folsie as TIRZ #3 and TIRZ #4 Board Chair.
4. Accounts Payables, Direct Payables and Utility Refunds for October, November, and December 2024.
5. A Resolution for a grant application for "Project Armor" through the Office of the Governor.

REGULAR ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR APPROVAL

6. **Charter ~ Discuss and take any action deemed necessary to vote whether it is necessary to review the Charter for further amendments in accordance with Bay City Charter Section 16.01.**

City Attorney, Anne Marie Odefey, pointed out a correction that it is section 16.02, not 16.01. This is required prior to going forward with the election. It is a formality for Council to approve this motion. Council Member Benjamin Flores stated his concerns about the order in which Council has been doing things.

Motion made by Council Member Folsie to approve. Seconded by Council Member Finlay. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Folsie, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay. Voting Nay: Council Member Flores. Motion carried.

7. **Charter ~ Discuss, consider, and/or approve proposed Charter Amendment Measure "A".**

Motion made by Council Member Flores to approve proposed Charter Amendment Measure "A". Seconded by Council Member Folsie. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Flores, Council Member Folsie, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay. Motion carried.

8. **Charter ~ Discuss, consider, and/or approve proposed Charter Amendment Measure "B".**

City Attorney, Anne Marie Odefey, discussed the two available options for Proposition "B", Option One to set minimum number of meetings to one and Option Two removing number of meetings and setting by Ordinance. Council Member Benjamin Flores stated having fixed dates makes it more flexible. Council Member Westmoreland stated a local business owner told him the City might get more people interested in running for council if meetings were at least once a month, maybe twice a month, providing for greater flexibility.

Mayor Nelson polled Council Members on their preference of options and Option One was favored.

Motion made by Council Member Westmoreland to approve Charter Amendment Measure "B", Option ONE to be presented to the voters to be placed on the ballot. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sitz. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Westmoreland. Voting No: Council Member Flores, Council Member Folsie, Council Member Finlay. Motion Failed.

Item #8 was re-visited after item #10:

Council Member Finlay made a motion to reconsider item #8. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sitz. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Flores, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Folse, Council Member Finlay. Voting No: None. Motion Carried.

After reconsideration, a motion was made by Council Member Westmoreland to approve Charter Amendment Measure "B", Option ONE to be presented to the voters to be placed on the ballot. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sitz. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay. Voting No: Council Member Flores, Council Member Folse. Motion Carried.

9. Charter ~ Discuss, consider, and/or approve proposed Charter Amendment Measure "C".

10. Charter ~ Discuss, consider, and/or approve proposed Charter Amendment Measure "D".

Council Member Westmoreland made a motion to table items 9 and 10, Measures "C" & "D" until a future meeting. Seconded by Council Member Finlay. Voting yea: Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Flores, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Folse, Council Member Finlay. Voting No: Mayor Nelson.

Council Member Finlay requested to revisit item #8. There was some confusion and requested reconsideration.

11. Charter ~ Discuss, consider, and/or approve proposed Charter Amendment Measure "E".

City Attorney, Anne Marie Odefey, presented and discussed two options for Charter Measurement "E", renamed Measure "C". Ms. Odefey stated that Option One was not changed from "waives this requirement for good cause shown" and Option Two added to include 20 mile radius. Council Member Flores made a comment on the transition of the City Manager position, that there was not an after-action as to what they were looking for, just a transition and asked why they didn't look for other candidates. Mayor Robert K. Nelson stated he saw the loyalty and all we needed in a City Manager, and we needed to do everything we could to keep providing the best for the City.

Mayor Nelson polled Council Members on their preference of options and Option Two was favored.

Motion made by Council Member Westmoreland to approve Measure "C", Option TWO to be presented to the voters to be placed on the ballot. Seconded by Council Member Folse. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Folse, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay, Mayor Nelson. Voting No: Council Member Flores. Motion carried.

12. Ordinance ~ An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bay City, Texas, ordering a special election to be held within the city, on May 3, 2025, for the purpose of amendments to the Bay City Home Rule Charter; making provisions for conducting the election; and authorizing a contract with Matagorda County to

furnish election services and equipment; providing for severability and the repeal of conflicting ordinances; and providing an effective date.

City Attorney, Anne Marie Odefey, provided and discussed an updated copy of the ordinance.

Motion made by Council Member Finlay to approve an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bay City, Texas, ordering a special election to be held within the City, on May 3, 2025, for the purpose of amendments to the Bay City Home Rule Charter; making provisions for conducting the election; and authorizing a contract with Matagorda County to furnish election services and equipment; providing for severability and the repeal of conflicting ordinances; and providing an effective date. Seconded by Council Member Folse. Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Sitz, Council Member Flores, Council Member Folse, Council Member Westmoreland, Council Member Finlay. A poll was taken. All voted Yea. Motion Carried.

CLOSED / EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

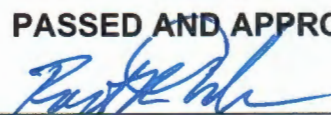
ITEMS / COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER

Council Member Folse thanked the public for coming out to the meeting and voicing their opinions. Mayor Nelson also thanked the citizens for attending and stated we will grow and move forward as a community.

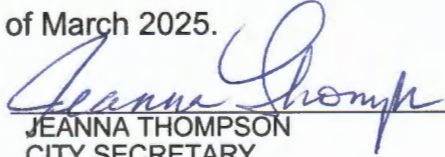
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 25th day of March 2025.



ROBERT K. NELSON, MAYOR
CITY OF BAY CITY, TEXAS



JEANNA THOMPSON
CITY SECRETARY

